

St. Johnsbury, Vt., Friday, Feb. 16, 1883.

Weather Record.		
At Bingham's drug store, for the week ending February 13, 1883.		
	Highest.	Lowest.
Thursday,	19	-10
Friday,	22	15
Saturday,	0	-18
Sunday,	18	-16
Monday,	19	10
Tuesday,	15	-16
Wednesday,	14	-18

## Local News.

Wiggins is now to have his great storm March 11.

The Academy numbered 315 students during the week.

This morning a snow threatens, but it may prove another snow storm.

The Ruggles-street church quartette appear in the course this (Friday) evening.

Some preliminary steps are being taken towards the formation of a musical society.

The band will give a promenade concert at the Town hall on Tuesday evening, Feb. 20.

Poster G. Stevens has rented the new house of W. S. Boynton on Green street, but it will not be ready to occupy until May.

Postmaster Carpenter reports the transmission of valentines through the mails as having been less than in previous years.

Some thirty Good Templars went from St. Johnsbury to Passumpsic on Thursday evening to help institute a lodge at that place.

Rev. G. F. Barnes of Morrisville will preach at the Church of the Messiah next Sunday. Rev. Mr. Tillotson preaches at Glover.

This is a trying time for the railroads. Trains are frequently from one to three hours late, and the wonder is that they can get through at all.

The Good Templars hold a social at their hall this (Thursday) evening, for the members and invited guests. Fourteen candidates were initiated on Monday evening.

Take care of the snow on sheds and outbuildings. Several serious and some fatal accidents have occurred in this state from roofs being crumpled in by the great weight of snow.

Town officers, who wish their annual reports printed should make them up and hand them in as early as possible. This office is prepared to do them in pamphlet form or otherwise in good shape.

The choir of the Free Baptist church is now composed of J. A. Noyes, tenor; Mrs. Anna Morse, soprano; Mrs. Leon F. Gaskill, alto; Anna Morse, bass; Miss Edna Blanchard, organist.

The color of the senior class at the Academy is pink, and somewhat of a sensation was created on Wednesday morning when the young ladies of the class made their appearance attired in pink aprons.

The state board of agriculture announce sessions of the board as follows: Cabot, Feb. 20 and 21; Windham March 1 and 2; Passumpsic, March 13 and 14; Wolfcott, March 14 and 15; Glover, March 15 and 16.

Negotiations have been pending the present week between Jerry Drew and William Bradley of Boston looking to a transfer of the St. Johnsbury house from the former to the latter, but as yet no sale has been effected.

The correspondent of the Argus (who is a member of the Universalist church in this place) writes that paper that the Universalist society have not yet secured a preacher, having concluded not to re-engage Rev. B. M. Tillotson.

The Historic society of St. Johnsbury East will present the drama of "Theresa, the Orphan of Geneva," in the Town hall, Saturday evening, Feb. 24, the entertainment concluding with a three-act comedy, "The Flower of the Family."

That was rather a handsome "send-off" given to a party of checker players who had had a prolonged game in a store in this place, where they were in the habit of assembling. As they rose to depart the proprietor remarked, "Gentlemen, that is the best move you have made to-night."

E. T. & H. K. Ide are receiving a large amount of wool from the farmers, who have been holding it for an advance for two and a half years. The price of wool has advanced, and the farmers are unloading their stock, being fearful of getting bitten by a decline if they hold it longer.

The new Masonic hall at Lyndonville will be dedicated on Friday afternoon and evening, Feb. 16, on the occasion of the meeting being held there of the Caledonia county district, comprising the five lodges of St. Johnsbury, Danville, West Concord, West Burke and Lyndonville.

This has been a remarkably close winter. In this connection it is an interesting fact to know that there are, at the present time, only three adults in the tomb at the cemetery, only one of whom was placed there from this town. Last year at this time the tomb had twenty adult occupants.

Wm. C. Hovey, son of Jacob G. Hovey, Esq., who is express agent on the Washburn line, writes his father from Indiana that he never saw a flood before—that his train had been trying to get somewhere for three days, but that he had sat down but once to eat a meal in three days, and for 26 hours had eaten nothing.

Rev. Charles Earl Preston of Bristol, R. I., will preach at the Advent Christian church, Paddock village, next Sunday. Subject at 10:30 a. m., "The Important Work of the Universal Advent Church"; at 1:45, "The Way to Gain Eternal Life"; at 6:30 p. m., "The Incarnation of Our Blessed Lord." Christians of all other denominations are especially invited to attend.

At the late teachers' meeting at Barton, a society of teachers, school officers and superintendents was organized and is known as the Orleans County Educational society. It will hold its first meeting at Barton Landing on Saturday of next week. Among the subjects announced is that of "How to teach primary classes," to be presented by Miss Mattie Jenness of St. Johnsbury.

There appears to be some misunderstanding in regard to the early-closing movement. Several merchants have been closing their stores on Wednesday evening for a few weeks past, with the understanding that others engaged in the same business would do likewise. Having been disappointed in this respect, they will open their stores hereafter, and the poor clerks will have to face the music.

"Captain" Kendall, formerly of St. Johnsbury, an account of whose canoe voyage with Dr. Neide, starting from Lake George, was given in August, reached New Orleans a few days ago, passing through the lakes, by rail to Olean, and there took to the water of the Allegheny river, getting into the Ohio at Pittsburg, and thence into the Mississippi. Their adventures include some rough experiences with ice, and fires that destroyed their ears and sails.

Major E. P. Farr of Theford writes us that he expects to go to Dakota about the last of March to locate his soldier's homestead. As quite a number of ex-soldiers expect sometime to locate their homesteads, and do not fully realize how rapidly all desirable government lands are being taken up, he thinks there will be quite a rush this spring for that purpose. Several are going with the Major, prospecting, and the company can be enlarged indefinitely. Any discount on railroad fares, etc., will depend on the size of the party.

An interesting case to be heard by the United States court at Burlington the last of this month is that of the Bradley fertilizer company of Boston vs. Hiram H. Cutting of Lunenburg. The defendant is secretary of the state board of agriculture, and in that capacity, at a public meeting of the board, as Bradley claims, passed some adverse criticisms in the course of a lecture on manures, on the products of the Bradley company. Shortly after the company, through their attorney, Luke P. Poland, instituted a suit against Cutting to recover ten thousand dollars damages. To extract that amount of money from the secretary would utterly ruin the state board of agriculture.

"The St. Johnsbury Caledonian" is one of those weekly papers which never lies down without having read everything in it. There is a vast difference in papers, some manifesting that careful and thorough editing which marks the true journalist. The Caledonian is one of those. Now a compliment or a criticism is valuable or otherwise according to its source. The above appreciative notice is from the pen of George A. Marden, editor and poet, and at present speaker of the Massachusetts house of representatives—but a man who considers it a higher honor to edit a newspaper well than to hold any political office, as he recently announced in a speech before the Massachusetts Press association. We consider such a notice as the above from such a source the highest compliment.

Personal. Rev. Geo. N. Webster, who has just resigned the pastorate of the First Presbyterian church in Troy, N. Y., was for several years previous to going to Troy the professor of intellectual philosophy in Middlebury college, and still earlier was the second pastor of the South Congregational church in this place.

The Worcester Spy of last week has the following respecting our former townsman: "Principal Fuller, of the Free Institute, reached home Tuesday afternoon, and at once entered upon his duties. During his absence of five months Mr. Fuller has visited the industrial and technical schools of England, France, Switzerland, Bavaria, Austria, Germany, Russia and Denmark, and reports that everywhere in these countries there is the intensest interest in technical education. In addition to his lectures in chemistry, Prof. Fuller will give a course of lectures on geology to the senior class of the institute."

Miss Mattie Blodgett has returned from Washington, where she has been for some time past.

Mrs. C. L. Kittredge and Miss Helen Kittredge expect to spend several weeks in Washington, going thence next week.

Owen H. Gates leaves the present week for a trip to New York, Baltimore and Washington, to be absent a short time.

George R. Clark and wife of Boston and John C. Clark, cashier of the First National bank at Chelsea, with his family, are stopping for a few days at their mother's, Mrs. E. F. Brown's. Mr. George Clark is a member of the Ruggles-street church quartette, which appears at Music hall Friday evening.

## A Narrow Escape.

C. L. Davison of Lower Waterford had a narrow escape at Passumpsic on Wednesday morning. He is a large man, weighing over two hundred pounds, and was riding in his sleigh on top of five bags of oats. The sleigh was struck by the through freight, the oats and blankets being thrown up on the engine, and he and the horse were

thrown to one side and both escaped uninjured. Mr. Davison retained his hold on the reins, and the only damage he experienced was the tearing of his coat from his body. The sleigh was completely smashed.

## Accident by Car Bunters.

Silas W. Bonett, a brakeman on the Passumpsic road, had his left leg broken above the knee while coupling cars on the through freight train at Paddock village this (Thursday) morning. The bunters caught his leg horizontally between the hip and the knee, the bones cracking as the bunters neared. He held on to the brake until assistance came to him. This was his second trip down on this road. He had been employed on the Central Vermont road, where the bunters never came together. He is a young man, and has some sisters residing at West Concord. He was taken to the Cottage hotel, where his leg was dressed.

## Death of Rev. E. S. Locke.

Rev. Edwin S. Locke died at his home near Barton Landing on Sunday last. Mr. Locke will be remembered as pastor of the Methodist church in this place in '80 and '81. Not long ago he abandoned preaching and went to farming. A short time before his sickness he had been out exercising or breaking a colt and had come into the house quite warm. Before he had time to cool off some one came to his house to look at his stock, and going out to the barn and standing about unprotected while yet in a perspiration he took a violent cold which developed into pneumonia, and although he was reported better the middle of the week, he died on Sunday. He leaves a wife and three children.

## V. M. C. A. Notes.

At a meeting of the Woman's Auxiliary on Tuesday, held in the association rooms, written reports from various committees were read, showing that faithful and practical work had been done since their organization last September. Various plans and methods of work were discussed and new members received.

A reception will be given Chamberlin post, G. A. R., by the association and auxiliary, on the evening of the 23d, (Washington's birthday,) in the lower room of the Music hall building. The committees are making arrangements for musical and literary exercises, consisting of appropriate songs and selections. The solos, duets, choruses, etc., will include many of the old war songs of '61-'65.

## Silver Wedding.

On Monday evening a large number of friends met at the house of Mr. and Mrs. Lafayette Soper, on Western ave., they having been married twenty-five years. The party was warmly greeted by Mr. Soper and family and informed that the privileges of the premises were theirs, and that they could do as they liked. No doubt Mr. Soper saw that it was necessary that he should surrender and that he might as well do it at once as to stand out about it. After the party had assembled Judge Bowman presented them a pair of elegant easy-chairs and a goodly quantity of silver-ware. Mr. Soper responded in a feeling manner, assuring his friends that their kindness was appreciated. After congratulations refreshments were served and a merry evening followed.

## Beware of the Brimstone.

We caution the reader against an article inadvertently printed on the first page entitled "a cure for diphtheria." When the best medical skill of the world is wholly baffled in its treatment of this dreadful scourge, it is hardly becoming in any one to advertise a "cure." It is very common, however, to use sulphur in diphtheria, and there are many well-attested cases of good results; but before making any sick person (especially a child) inhale the smoke of brimstone, as suggested in the closing sentence, let any well person light a common lucifer match and hold it to his own nose, and he will soon become convinced that it would be needless torture and perhaps fatal suffocation to subject a helpless person to any such treatment as inhaling burning brimstone.

## The Severe Winter.

There has been no such winter as the present one for the depth of snow and steady cold weather in this part of Vermont for many years. There has been no rain to speak of since the 20th of September. The fall was dry, and the snow came the first of December upon the dusty roads, and has fallen frequently since until there is a great body of this "poor man's manure" all over this section; in some parts of the county it lies good four feet deep. Until February came in the winter had been remarkably free from winds, and although the snow was dry and "mealy," it had remained where it fell. But the past week or two has shown a change. The frequent falls of snow have been whisked about by the wind until the hill roads are well nigh impassable, and many of the farmers on the hills have hard work to keep a road that can be driven over. The long-continued extreme cold makes the winter very trying, but we believe it is called usually healthful.

## Some Business Changes.

The removal of Mr. Potts to Kansas city, Missouri, necessitates some changes in Fairbanks' store. Edward A. Walker, assuming the position of purchasing agent for the manufacturing department in addition to that of cashier, needs assistance in the latter department, which place Charles H. Horton, for several years salesman in the merchandise department, will soon take. James Ritchie, for several years head clerk in the clothing department, takes general charge of the store in place of Mr. Potts. George Fulford now has charge of the carpet and clothing department, and Wm. H. Bailey goes from the grocery department

up stairs as Mr. Fulford's assistant.

A. B. Noyes, assistant cashier of the First National bank, has resigned his position to take a place as book-keeper in the scale department of E. & T. Fairbanks & Co.—Fred G. Bundy, who has been assistant treasurer of the Passumpsic Savings bank, takes a position as clerk in McKinnon & Griswold's wholesale store. Capt. Griswold expects to go on the road.—Charles S. Adams, who has been in the office of the scale department, takes Mr. Bundy's place in the savings bank.

## Attempted Self-Destruction.

The Brattleboro Reformer has the following concerning Oscar W. Richardson, well-known boot and shoe dealer of Railroad street for several years past. He was at the house of his brother in Brattleboro, W. F. Richardson: "He had come down to attend his father's ninety-first birthday party Thursday. Friday morning he did not appear at breakfast. Mrs. Richardson asked her husband to go and call him before he went off. He found the door locked and could get no response to his calls. Effecting an entrance by another door he found his brother lying insensible with a basin full of blood, from a stab which he had inflicted in his groin with a penknife. He hastened for medical assistance, and when he returned found his brother sitting up, feeble, but apparently in the possession of his senses. He said that he remembered nothing about the stab, and couldn't tell why he did it. It was probably a freak of insanity, and it is remembered he had one other such attack before he went to the war, being brought home from New York crazy, from no known or conceivable cause. The doctor thinks his chance of recovery is good, though he is pretty well drained of blood." We understand that Mr. Richardson was taken suddenly ill at his home in this place some two weeks ago, and had not recovered when he went to Brattleboro.

## The Poultry Show.

The exhibition of the Passumpsic Valley Poultry association opened at the Town hall Wednesday, and before night over one hundred entries were recorded, a number in excess of last year. The specimens exhibited are superior in quality to those of last year. There are a number of very large exhibitors. W. L. Sweet makes twenty-five entries, comprising Plymouth Rocks, Bronze turkeys, Toulouse geese, fancy pigeons, and White Guinea hens. James F. Watson of Nashua, N. H., makes eleven entries, of Plymouth Rocks and Light Brahmas; C. C. Paine of East Bethel, eight entries, W. C. Polish fowls, R. C. W. Leghorns, Black Jaws, American Seabrights, B. R. K. Game Bantams, etc.; L. A. Russell, two entries, Game fowls; J. W. Church, farmers' fowls; A. D. Massey, Light Brahmas, Langshans, White Pkin ducks and fancy pigeons; C. S. Hastings, E. C. W. Leghorns and farmers' fowls; Geo. A. Davis, Montpelier, eight entries, Light Brahmas and Partridge Cochins; P. Richards, six entries, S. S. Hamburgs; A. A. Miles, six entries, Embledon and native geese; E. L. Miles, fancy pigeons; T. B. Underwood, fancy pigeons; H. A. Powers, G. P. Hamburgs; H. C. Currier, American Seabrights; G. W. Cook, Brown Leghorns; W. H. Wheeler, Light Brahmas; Stephen Hastings, Black Cochins and Brown Leghorns; H. H. Wheeler, black turkeys, Brown geese and farmers' fowls; F. Warner, Brown Leghorns and Newfoundland dog; F. Currier, Brown Leghorns and Light Brahmas; J. W. Eastman, Black Spanish, W. F. J. R. Young, Montpelier, Bronze turkeys; W. E. Bright, Walham, Mass., fancy pigeons. In the line of pet stock, dogs, cats, squirrels and canary birds were well represented.

## Another Winter-Bird Visitor.

In addition to the bird I referred to last week, we have with us this winter a beautiful Arctic bird, the Snow Bunting, or Snowflake; or, as Audubon calls it, the "Snow-Lark Bunting" (*Plectrophanes nivalis*). This is not our common snow bird, *Juncos hyemalis*, but is a large, pretty bird, and comes to us from the far north. It belongs to Arctic America and Europe. In summer they are to be found in large numbers in Greenland and as far as the Arctic sea; also in Iceland and the Lappland Alps. In winter they move southward, usually following the sea shore where they find food in the sea weeds washed ashore by the tides. When found inland, as in the case this winter, and as far south as New Jersey, they may be seen in small flocks watching for an opportunity to alight in a farm-yard, or in a stable field for the grain that may be there scattered. Their flight may be described as low, performed in an undulating line by means of repeated flappings, and short intervals of cessation, very much after the manner of the goldfinch. In the undulating curves of their flight they give a coaxing call-note which is very sweet. When they have arrived at a fitting place, they wheel suddenly around and alight rather abruptly, and then it is that the white of the wings and tail becomes very conspicuous. This bird is about the size of the bobolink except that it is shorter. The male and female are so nearly alike it is quite difficult to tell one from the other.

## The Dress Changes.

The dress changes very materially between summer and winter. The latter as we see it, is white beneath, head and rump yellowish-brown, with some blotches of same on side of breast; middle of back brown streaked with black; wings and tail white streaked with black. In observing a flock exactly alike. One will be almost pure white, another entirely white and black, and another as first described. Spare these as well as the pine grosbeaks.

## Vital Statistics.

The statistics from the several district clerks of the town have not all

been received as yet, but the village has been canvassed by Avery D. Pike who reports to the town clerk the following figures:

Whole No. of deaths,	35
Under one year,	2
Between 1 and 2,	3
Between 2 and 3,	1
Between 3 and 4,	1
Between 4 and 5,	3
Between 5 and 6,	3
Between 6 and 7,	2
Between 7 and 8,	2
Between 8 and 9,	1
Between 9 and 10,	1
Between 10 and 11,	1
Between 11 and 12,	1
Between 12 and 13,	1
Between 13 and 14,	1
Between 14 and 15,	1
Between 15 and 16,	1
Between 16 and 17,	1
Between 17 and 18,	1
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Between 94 and 95,	1
Between 95 and 96,	1
Between 96 and 97,	1
Between 97 and 98,	1
Between 98 and 99,	1
Between 99 and 100,	1

Of these six were reported as dying of consumption, four of diphtheria, five of fevers, four of pneumonia, and one suicide.

In the same district there were 49 births in 1882. Eight of the fathers and ten of the mothers were born in Canada, two fathers born in England, and two fathers and two mothers born in Scotland.

In the same district as the above and to be added to it, is the report of Rev. Mr. Boismont, the parish priest, whose territory takes in the greater part of the foreign population. He reports for 1882 as follows:

Number of deaths,	26
Under one year,	16
Between 1 and 2,	4
Between 2 and 3,	5
Between 3 and 4,	1
Between 4 and 5,	1
Between 5 and 6,	1
Between 6 and 7,	1
Between 7 and 8,	1
Between 8 and 9,	1
Between 9 and 10,	1
Between 10 and 11,	1
Between 11 and 12,	1
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Between 92 and 93,	1
Between 93 and 94,	1
Between 94 and 95,	1
Between 95 and 96,	1
Between 96 and 97,	1
Between 97 and 98,	1
Between 98 and 99,	1
Between 99 and 100,	1

He reports also 71 births—38 males and 33 females. Of the parents of these children 60 fathers and 66 mothers were born in Canada, three fathers and two mothers in Ireland, five fathers and two mothers in Nova Scotia, and one each in Germany.

By adding these two reports together it will be seen that the statistics of the village (not including Sumnerville) foot up as follows:

Whole number deaths,	61
Whole number births,	121

This shows a year of remarkable health, the death rate being less than for several years past, while the population has constantly increased. It will not fail to be noticed that one-half of the entire number of deaths were children under two years old; also that the increase of population is mainly from Canada.